CITY/REGION

Minority law groups to skip Springs meet

Amendment 2, official-English measure cited

By **Louis Aguilar**/Gazette Telegraph

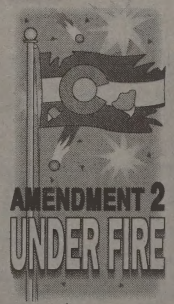
Five minority lawyer groups will meet in Denver the same weekend as the Colorado Bar Association convention in Colorado Springs to protest Amendment 2 and the "official English" law.

The alternative conference, Oct. 9 at the University of Denver Law School, could cut attendance at the convention by 300. More than 700 of the bar association's 12,000 members were expected.

The groups noted that Colorado Springs is the birthplace of Amendment 2, passed by state voters last year, and the official-English amendment, approved by voters in 1988.

Amendment 2, which is tied up in the courts, would prohibit laws protecting gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The other measure makes English the official state language. Proponents say it's needed to prevent divisiveness stemming from language differences. Opponents say it is racist.

Mary Phillips, president of the state's Women's Bar Association, said the decision to hold the alternative conference should not be viewed as a boycott of Colorado Springs.



"We aren't telling our members not to go to Colorado Springs," she said. "But we wanted to do something to express our organization's opinion that Amendment 2 is wrong."

Chuck Turner, executive director of the Colorado Bar Association, said the group's meeting Oct. 6-10 will go on at The Broadmoor hotel.

"We'll miss them, but we'll go forward, and our focus is on civil rights," he said.

Will Perkins, spokesman for Colorado for Family Values, which originated Amendment 2, said the minority bar associations are not "looking at the issue closely."

"They, of all people, should understand that we are trying to protect the civil rights laws by not giving homosexuals a protected-class status," he said.

This is the latest public disagreement over the bar association's meeting.

In January, board members of the state bar voted to keep the conference in Colorado Springs. A month later, they decided to cancel.

Then, after a backlash by some members, the board changed its mind again.

Dean Ogawa, a Colorado Springs member of both the Asian American Bar Association and the Colorado Bar Association, is frustrated by the ongoing debate.

"I would not have made the choice to move it out of Colorado Springs. I am disappointed that the debate is still going on," he said.

The groups that decided to hold a separate program are the Asian American Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Women's Bar Association, the Lesbian and Gay Law Association, and the Sam Cary Bar Association, a group of black attorneys in Denver.

RELIGION

Springs lawyer claims he was molested by priest

Attorney wants pope's apology

By **Erin Emery**
Gazette Telegraph

A prominent Colorado Springs law-

Denver for World Youth Day.

Murphy said a priest — now in his 70s and serving as a chaplain at a hospital in California — repeatedly molested him when he was an altar boy between the ages of 7 and 11.

The Denver-based priest was a close family friend and Murphy assisted him with Mass five times each Sunday dur-

Complaints of abuse have historically been ignored by church leaders more interested in protecting themselves than the children, Murphy said.

"Camp St. Malo is about as appropriate of a place that can be found for the pope to . . . symbolically apologize for the hierarchy of the church," Murphy said.

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church doesn't know Murph